

Dewan's reply.—Your suggestions are very ambitious. You want a special officer to prepare a scheme of town-planning for each town in the State. You want a set of schemes under which the several towns should expand in an orderly fashion. It would mean an officer for each Municipality, and Mr. Krishna Aiyangar, the Municipal Chairman of Alleppey, who, as all of you know, is an experienced man in that line, observes: "It would involve the creation of Town Improvement Trusts in all these Municipalities and would mean a good deal of expenditure which, in the present finances of the Municipalities and the Government, it would be rash to undertake." He also observes that a good deal of town-planning could be actually worked by the Municipalities themselves by enforcing the provisions of the Municipal Regulation, and making an earnest effort to see that people conform to the building bye-laws, a draft of which has been recently published in the Gazette. I have consulted the Chief Engineer on this question in another connection, and he has told me that any ordinary town-planning could be undertaken by one of the Engineers in the service of the State without special training, and if any Municipality wants the services of such an Engineer to formulate a modest scheme of town-planning, Government would be glad to lend the same to that Municipality. As regards the need for a complete and accurate survey of municipal towns, I quite agree with you; but you should know that the cost of such an elaborate cadastral survey is about Rs. 30,000 per square mile, and I think that this rules the proposition out. In British India also many towns have not had the benefit of such a survey owing to its prohibitive cost. Our present survey is good enough as a frame work. Only, the Municipalities should do their duty and see that people do not encroach on *poramboke* lands, such as markets and roads. The Municipalities and the Revenue Department should be very prompt in checking all such encroachments.

100. Suggestions for improving the sanitation of the town of Shencottah.

Mr. L. Kulathu Aiyar (Member, Municipal Council, Shencottah), after thanking Government for conferring on the Shencottah Municipality the privilege of electing a non-official President, spoke about the highly insanitary and unhealthy nature of the Shencottah town which was traced to the want of drains on either side of the roads, streets and lanes, the existence of the Perumalkulam with its stagnant pools of dirty water in the centre of the town, and the absence of good water for drinking and bathing purposes. The Member requested that the Perumalkulam with the lands under it be acquired, the tank filled up and the entire area converted into house sites to relieve the congestion. The difficulty experienced in the matter of drinking water in the town could not be removed solely by the sinking of a few more wells. Other remedial measures were also necessary for which a Committee should be appointed. The Municipality was without funds to cope with the situation; and the attitude of the Government in insisting on such wants being supplied by the Municipalities themselves, irrespective of their pecuniary circumstances, was not acceptable. The position of Government was that of a parent and guardian to its subjects and like a wise Hindu father settling on his grown-up son a separate home, the Government should first provide the Municipality with everything necessary for a start, viz., good drainage, good water and a healthy atmosphere and leave the maintenance work to the Municipalities. He, therefore, prayed that Government might take active steps to remove at an early date the natural disadvantages under which the Shencottah Municipality laboured.

Dewan's reply.—I have already given my reply on the question of municipal grants and the devolution of powers to Municipalities. I may add that the question of grants will come up for review at the time of the next budget and then it will also be considered by the new Legislative Council which will be essentially non-official in character. In regard to the tank which, you say, should be acquired and filled up, the matter has been referred to the Land Revenue Commissioner, and it is under his consideration. As soon as his reply is received, Government will do what is possible.

101. The policy of the Government in relation to Municipalities.

Mr. V. Parameswaran Tampi (Member, Municipal Council, Mavelikara) began by expressing his gratification at the introduction of a large non-official majority

in the expanded Legislative Council, the Dewan's announcement of the Devaswom policy, and the avowed policy of the Government in regard to the development of trade and commerce and the promotion of industries, and stated that he had great pleasure in conveying the people's gratitude to Government for these and other boons. The Member then represented that the Municipality of Mavelikara should have an elected President like other Municipalities. In the matter of house tax, it was unfair that the Mavelikara Municipality should be asked to levy it at 3 per cent, while the Municipal Council at Trivandrum was moving only on the $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent basis and added that they would meet with serious difficulties if they took steps on lines different from those of the premier Municipality in the State.

Dewan's reply.—In regard to your request for an elected President for the Mavelikara Municipal Council, I have referred to it in my address. If you had applied for an elected President, Government would have been glad to comply with your request. It was in pursuance of a resolution of your Council that a nominated non-official President was given to you.

Member.—It was the old Council that passed that resolution.

Dewan.—If the new Council passes another resolution, the Government will have no objection to allow an elected President for your Council when the term of the present President expires.

In regard to the rate of house tax, it is the resolution of your Council that it should be imposed at 3 per cent. You say that the resolution as regards the rate of house tax was passed at a meeting composed of a majority of officials. It is open to you to pass a fresh resolution to the effect that the rate should be only $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. There is no compulsion whatsoever in regard to this matter.

In regard to the extension of the limits of the Municipality also, it is only in case the Municipal Council asks for it that it will be sanctioned and not otherwise.

In regard to Haripad, that Municipal Council said that the limits of the Municipality should be extended so as to include the Kartikapalli village. Government did not agree at first. The Municipality insisted again and Government agreed. That is an instance to show that Government do not like to impose their wishes on Municipal Councils.

102. Certain needs of the Kayankulam Municipality.

Mr. N. Kesava Panikkar (Member, Municipal Council, Kayankulam) said that Kayankulam was growing in importance as a town and that, as the converging point of the three agricultural taluks of Karunagapalli, Kartikapalli and Mavelikara, it was becoming more and more prominent every day as a busy centre of agriculture. In view of the extremely rural character of the place, a large number of animals such as cows, bulls and elephants were being maintained by the ryots either for agricultural or transport purposes. For want of a Veterinary Hospital the agricultural population was being put to great inconvenience and loss, especially when a contagious disease broke out among the cattle. The nearest veterinary institution they had was the one at Tiruvalla, about 20 miles from Kayankulam, and a journey to that place entailed the crossing of 5 or 6 ferries. The next veterinary institution to which they could resort was the one at Quilon, 42 miles away from Kayankulam. In the light of these facts, the Member urged the establishment of a veterinary hospital at Kayankulam. The other need about which the Member spoke was that of a Leper Asylum. As a result of long correspondence between Government and the Kayankulam Municipality, a site had been acquired at Padanayarkulangara for the construction of a Leper Asylum which showed that Government were convinced of the need of such an institution. It would be a great boon to the large number of homeless lepers loitering about the locality, especially during the Oachira festival, if they were given a home where they could be carefully looked after and afforded medical relief. Though they deserved the sympathy of all charitable people, their contact had been proved to be dangerous to public health. It was, therefore, highly desirable that they should be segregated, particularly on the occasion